

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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EA/PHL - MR. FLECK

----- 121692

R 041514Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MOPS, XB, VN, VS, RP, US

SLBJECT: QUESTIONING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOUT AMERICAN
PW/MIA'S

1. ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING-IN-ACTION IN INDOCHINA CONTINUES TO BE AN ACTIVE ISSUE HERE AND PARTICULARLY IN THE CONGRESS. THE DEPARTMENT IS ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW UP ANY LEADS WHICH MIGHT PRODUCE INFORMATION ON THIS GROUP.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING THE 48 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WHO RECENTLY LEFT VIET-NAM AND WERE PICKED UP BY USNS HUDSON, INTERVIEWED FOR ANY INFORMATION THEY MIGHT HAVE ABOUT AMERICAN PRISONERS AND/OR MISSING (BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY) FROM THE VIET-NAM WAR.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO MISS A POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMATION, WE ALSO WOULD NOT WISH TO TAKE ANY
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ACTION WHICH WOULD PREJUDICE THE FUTURE ACCEPTABILITY

OF "BOAT CASE" REFUGEES IN THE PHILIPPINES. REQUEST
EMBASSY COMMENT IF GENERAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT COULD BE INCLUDED AS PART OF
INTERVIEW BY CONSULAR OFFICER IN CONNECTION WITH
PROCESSING FOR RESETTLEMENT OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES
OF THESE REFUGEES.

4. IF THIS IS FEASIBLE AND IF ANY OF THESE REFUGEES
DO INDICATE THEY HAVE SUCH KNOWLEDGE, DEPARTMENT WILL
FORWARD DETAILED QUESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP
INVESTIGATION. ALTERNATIVELY, FOLLOW-UP MIGHT BE
UNDERTAKEN AT ONWARD DESTINATION OF REFUGEE.

5. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR
KNOWLEDGE OR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PW/MIAS COULD BE
MADE A REGULAR PART OF THE EMBASSY'S FUTURE
INTERVIEWING OF ANY OTHER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THE
PHILIPPINES. ROBINSON

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